

***REMARKS/ARGUMENTS******The Present Invention & the Pending Claims***

The present invention pertains to a method of producing an ether comprising subjecting a conjugated diene compound and an alcohol to a telomerization reaction in the presence of a catalyst composition. Claims 9-11, 14, 15, 17, and 21 are currently pending.

***Amendments to the Specification & Claims***

The specification has been amended to include the present application's priority information.

Claim 1 has been canceled. Claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form. Claims 2-8, 12, 13, 18-20, and 22 had been canceled previously.

No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

***Summary of the Office Action***

The specification has been objected to for not containing the priority information. The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious in view of U.S. Patent 5,886,211 (Hirai et al.). Claims 9-11, 14, 15, 17, and 21 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

***Discussion of the Objection to the Specification***

The specification has been objected to for not containing the priority information. An appropriate amendment has been made to the specification, and the objection to the specification should be overcome in view of this amendment.

***Discussion of the Obviousness Rejection***

Claim 1 has been rejected as obvious in view of Hirai et al. Solely for the purpose of expediting prosecution of the present application, Applicants have canceled claim 1. Therefore, the obviousness rejection has been rendered moot and should be withdrawn.

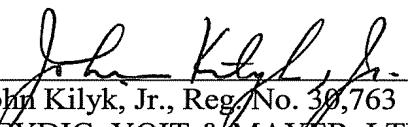
*Discussion of the Objections to the Claims*

Claims 9-11, 14, 15, 17, and 21 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 9 has been amended to be in independent form. Accordingly, claim 9 and claims 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, and 21 dependent thereon should be allowed.

*Conclusion*

Applicants respectfully submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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